

Naval Operating Concept for Joint Operations

The Naval Operating Concept (NOC) for Joint Operations provides the common overarching guidance for the development of future Navy and Marine Corps capabilities and forces in conjunction with our *Naval Power 21* transformational vision. The NOC describes how the naval services will operate across the full range of joint military operations in the near-, mid-, and far-term, and it provides a framework for developing new or existing naval capabilities and integrating them into existing and emerging Joint Operating Concepts.

U.S. defense strategy calls for joint forces capable of coordinated joint military operations to assure allies, dissuade adversaries, deter aggression, and decisively defeat any enemy. More specifically, the joint force must be capable of defending the United States, deterring aggression in four critical regions of the world and defeating adversaries in two conflicts, while retaining the option for decisive victory in one (referred to as the “1-4-2-1” strategy).

To help meet the demands of this strategy, the NOC describes how the Navy-Marine Corps Team will continue to operate as a

forward-postured, immediately employable force in the joint and multinational environments. The naval services will organize, deploy, employ, and sustain forces to conduct operations exploiting capabilities developed through the interrelated and complementary NCPs of Sea Strike, Sea Shield, Sea Base, and FORCENet, which are integrated with the tenets of the Marine Corps’ Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare (EMW).

In turn, these naval concepts support a range of complementary Joint Operating Concepts. We will maintain freedom of the seas for joint force use and for safeguarding maritime trade. Naval forces will conduct time-sensitive and sustained strikes when and where required. Theater air- and missile-defense capabilities will deny our adversaries the ability to threaten our forces, allies, or friends over land, as well as in the maritime environment. Navy and Marine Corps forces will deter potential adversaries through the ability to preempt or interdict aggressive action.

Naval forces will be mobile, maneuverable, networked, and distributed. Formations—such as Carrier Strike Groups



(CSGs), Expeditionary Strike Groups (ESGs), and strike or theater ballistic missile Surface Action Groups (SAGs), which are reinforced with Maritime Prepositioning Groups (MPGs) and are capable of merging into an Expeditionary Strike Force (ESF)—will provide a balanced naval force that is able to operate through a maneuverable Sea Base to meet the requirements of our Joint Force Commanders (JFCs). These formations are discussed further in the Global Concepts of Operations segment of this book.



To quickly respond to crises and minimize force closure times, naval forces will continue to be shifted rapidly between theaters. Innovative training and force planning will enable them to sustain a heightened state of readiness to reinforce other forward-deployed naval or joint forces. The physical presence of these naval forces may prevent crises from expanding or mitigate an adversary's ability to deploy and integrate anti-access capabilities. The ability to project power from the sea throughout and beyond the littoral regions—including conducting forcible-entry operations—allows the joint force to set initial conditions, preempt hostile action, and decisively defeat an adversary.

Naval forces will minimize the need for host-nation support by providing a sustainable, sovereign sea base that is relatively free from diplomatic and political constraints, thus limiting the impact of area-denial strategies. Moreover, these forward operating forces will have the ability to leverage national assets through a “reach-back” capability. They will be supported by, and provide support to, a persistent, inte-



grated, and tiered joint intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance sensor network. Enabled by FORCEnet, they also will have the capability to serve as the nucleus of, and provide an operating base for, a Joint Task Force (JTF) headquarters.

Forward operation provides joint forces with the situational awareness necessary to understand regional security environments and operating cultures, while laying the foundations for joint and multinational interoperability. Naval power from the sea can be leveraged through all phases of a joint campaign and in the diplomatic initiatives that may precede it. Forward deployed forces, complemented by forces rapidly surging from the continental United States or other theaters, provide decision-makers with credible and flexible deterrent options, as well as an immediately employable combat capability.

With hostilities increasing, JFCs that employ naval forces at the operational level can project massed offensive and defensive combat power from the sea, at the time and place of their choosing. As required by the campaign plan, naval forces can conduct forcible-entry operations to secure the necessary area and infrastructure, thus enabling additional joint or multinational forces to be introduced. With naval forces, the JFC can compel an adversary to disperse forces to defend against all possible points of entry or to expose forces to counter the threat. The ability of sea-based forces to attack, rapidly withdraw, maneuver, and attack again will force even a numerically superior enemy to react, creating opportunities for joint-force exploitation.

With FORCEnet, the sea base will significantly increase the ability of the joint

force to command and control, project, support, and sustain forces throughout the area of crisis or conflict. As a crisis expands, the sea base can be scaled in size and capability to meet the needs of the JFC. Follow-on joint forces can augment forward deployed forces in any region, with rapidly deploying Navy and Marine Corps forces optimally configured for this reinforcing mission.

Naval Transformation Roadmap

The Naval Transformation Roadmap (NTR) identifies the most significant of the enhanced naval capabilities required to support the NOC, and it outlines the steps the Navy and Marine Corps are taking to achieve them. Using the NTR as an overall guide, the Navy and Marine Corps each rely on distinct force development methods that allow us to maximize the value of the core competencies we bring to the joint force. The Navy's Naval Capability Development Process (NCDP) includes extensive participation by Navy and Marine Corps warfighters to identify, validate, and prioritize Navy capabilities required by the joint force. The Marine Corps' Expeditionary Force Development System (EFDS) produces the capabilities defined in the singular EMW Capability List for integration across the entire MAGTF. Far from being merely equal, however, the NCDP and EFDS are mutually supporting, with defined interconnections between the two. The Navy-Marine Corps Team then utilizes a common force development construct, the NCPs, to allow us to identify capabilities of common interest and joint importance.

Sea Shield describes the capabilities that extend precise and persistent naval defen-



sive capabilities, not only throughout large maritime areas but also deep over land, to protect joint forces and allies ashore. Sea Shield will assist the joint force in operating effectively, despite adversary efforts to deny theater access to U.S. forces. It will achieve these goals by exploiting global sea control to defeat enemy area denial threats, including aircraft, missiles, small littoral surface combatants, mines, and submarines. Sea Shield helps assure allies, deter adversaries, and generate operational freedom of action for the projection of naval and joint power.

Sea Strike describes the naval capabilities to project dominant and decisive offensive power from the sea in support of joint objectives. These capabilities include and integrate long-range, precise aircraft and missile fires; large-volume covert strike capability; high-tempo decisive maneuver; Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS); maritime special operations; and information operations to capitalize on the strategic agility, operational maneuverability, precise weapons employment, battlespace influence capabilities, and persistent sustainment of naval forces. By providing full con-

nectivity to, and the core of an early in-theater network backbone for, a powerful grid of national, joint, and sea-based sensors, the immediately employable naval elements of the joint force will be able to degrade the enemy's ability to effectively command and control, and offer an array of capabilities to strike or assault with speed measured in minutes, precision measured in a few meters, and volume of fire measured in many hundreds of fixed or mobile aim-points struck per day.

Sea Base describes an inherently maneuverable, scalable aggregation of distributed, networked platforms that enable the global power projection of offensive and defensive forces from the sea, and includes the ability to assemble, equip, project, support, and sustain those forces without reliance on land bases within the Joint Operations Area.

Sea Base capabilities allow joint forces to exploit the maneuver space provided by control of the sea. Sea Base capabilities will minimize limitations imposed by reliance on overseas shore-based support and max-



imize the ability of the joint force to conduct sustained, persistent combat operations from the maritime domain. These capabilities will also enable the transformed joint force to exploit our nation's asymmetric advantage in the battlespace.

FORCEnet will provide the open architecture and building blocks that integrate sensors, networks, decision aids, weapons, warriors, and supporting systems into a highly adaptive, human-centric, comprehensive system that operates from sea to space and from sea to land. By facilitating

comprehensive battlespace awareness, it will support the attainment of dimensional superiority by geographically dispersed forces as they execute a wide variety of missions across the entire range of military operations. It is focused on accelerating the speed and accuracy of information gathering, assessment, decision-making, and action at every level of command. FORCEnet includes assured access to networks and information through secure administration of networks and robust Computer Network Defense In-Depth strategies.